

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

CELEBRATE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WEEK

(After Last Week's Vote on the Energy Bill,
It Could Be Their Last Hurrah)

October 13, 2005

Dear Colleague:

Because this is National Wildlife Refuge week (October 9th – October 15th), we wanted to call your attention to provisions included in the House-passed *Gasoline for America's Security (GAS) Act* (H.R. 3893) that will allow the President to site oil refineries on many of our nation's most sensitive federal lands, including the non-wilderness areas of our National Wildlife Refuges. (Regrettably, Rep. Eshoo's amendment to protect these lands was not made in order by the Rules Committee for debate on the floor.)

Once the President makes the decision to site a refinery on federal land, the government will be required to lease the property to a refiner and your constituents will have no input whatsoever.

Over 74 million of the refuges' 95 million acres are at risk. [See column 4, "National Wildlife Refuge Non-Wilderness Acres," of the attached tables for a state-by-state breakdown these lands, as well as a listing of the nation's most well-known and visited refuges.]

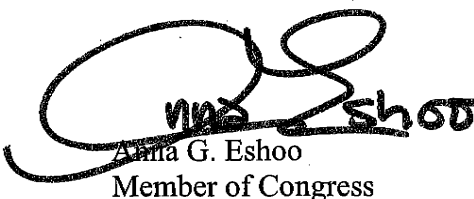
From Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge in New Hampshire, to Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia Beach, to the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, wildlife refuges near the coast are an important part of our nation's land and wildlife conservation system. While these lands are desirable for the oil and gas industry, because of the revenue generated by families, conservationists, sportsmen and fishermen, they're also important to many local economies.

On October 6th, Secretary Norton released a report called "Banking on Nature -- The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation." According to the report, refuges attracted 37 million visitors in 2004, creating 24,000 jobs and producing \$454 million in employment income.

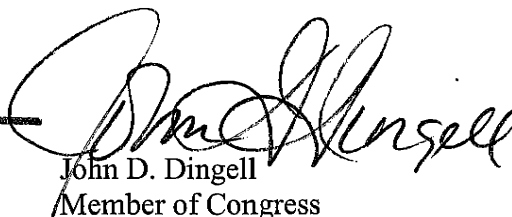
But who will want to visit a refuge with a refinery?

The refuges were set aside for the American people, but if this legislation is enacted, Congress will be granting the President an amazingly broad authority to simply hand our wildlife refuges over to big oil companies. This is a price that future generations simply cannot afford.

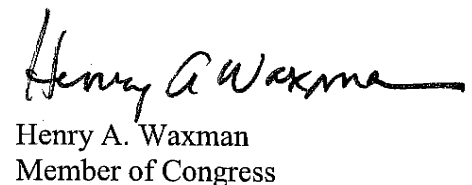
Sincerely,



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress

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Table 1. National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness and Total Acreage, by State

State	National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness	National Wildlife Refuge Total Acres	National Wildlife Refuge Non-Wilderness Acres
Alabama	0	59,528	59,528
Alaska	18,689,349	76,774,229	58,084,880
Arizona	1,343,444	1,726,280	382,836
Arkansas	2,144	361,331	359,187
California	9,172	472,338	463,166
Colorado	3,066	84,649	81,583
Connecticut	0	872	872
Delaware	0	26,126	26,126
Florida	51,252	977,997	926,745
Georgia	362,107	480,634	118,527
Hawaii	0	299,380	299,380
Idaho	0	92,165	92,165
Illinois	4,050	140,236	136,186
Indiana	0	64,613	64,613
Iowa	0	112,794	112,794
Kansas	0	58,695	58,695
Kentucky	0	9,078	9,078
Louisiana	8,346	545,452	537,106
Maine	7,392	61,381	53,989
Maryland	0	45,030	45,030
Massachusetts	2,420	16,797	14,377
Michigan	25,310	115,244	89,934
Minnesota	6,180	547,421	541,241
Mississippi	0	226,039	226,039
Missouri	7,730	70,859	63,129
Montana	64,535	1,328,473	1,263,938
Nebraska	4,635	178,331	173,696
Nevada	0	2,389,616	2,389,616
New Hampshire	0	15,822	15,822
New Jersey	10,341	71,197	60,856
New Mexico	39,908	385,052	345,144
New York	0	29,081	29,081
North Carolina	8,785	423,948	415,163
North Dakota	9,732	1,566,026	1,556,294
Ohio	77	8,875	8,798
Oklahoma	8,570	170,032	161,462
Oregon	925	572,590	571,665
Pennsylvania	0	10,048	10,048
Rhode Island	0	2,179	2,179
South Carolina	29,000	162,958	133,958
South Dakota	0	1,300,465	1,300,465
Tennessee	0	116,966	116,966
Texas	0	534,319	534,319
Utah	0	112,027	112,027
Vermont	0	33,230	33,230
Virginia	0	132,989	132,989
Washington	839	344,956	344,117
West Virginia	0	18,595	18,595
Wisconsin	29	236,470	236,441
Wyoming	0	101,857	101,857
Territories	0	1,766,965	1,766,965
Total	20,699,338	95,382,235	74,682,897

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Table 2. Wilderness Acres in Selected National Wildlife Refuges

Refuge (State)	National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness	National Wildlife Refuge Total Acres	National Wildlife Refuge Non-Wilderness Acres
Arctic (AK)	8,000,000	19,286,242	11,286,242
Kenai (AK)	1,354,247	1,912,425	558,178
Kodiak (AK)	0	1,990,271	1,990,271
Havasu (AZ/CA)	17,801	37,515	19,714
Buenos Aires (AZ)	0	117,107	117,107
Cache River (AR)	0	60,938	60,938
Felsenthal (AR)	0	64,902	64,902
Humboldt Bay (CA)	0	3,206	3,206
Modoc (CA)	0	7,021	7,021
Rocky Mtn. Ars. (CO)	0	16,083	16,083
Bombay Hook (DE)	0	16,058	16,058
J.N.Ding Darling (FL)	2,619	6,391	3,772
Merritt Island (FL)	0	139,189	139,189
Okefenokee (GA)	353,981	391,402	37,421
Kilauea Point (HI)	0	199	199
Upper Mississ. (IL)	0	32,837	32,837
DeSoto (IA)	0	3,503	3,503
Bayou Cocodrie (LA)	0	13,169	13,169
Tensas River (LA)	0	66,395	66,395
Rachel Carson (ME)	0	5,257	5,257
Blackwater (MD)	0	25,517	25,517
Shiawassee (MI)	0	9,363	9,363
Minnesota Valley (MN)	0	10,714	10,714
Yazoo (MS)	0	12,943	12,943
Mingo (MO)	7,730	21,746	14,016
National Bison (MT)	0	18,800	18,800
Desert (NV)	0	1,615,321	1,615,321
Great Bay (NH)	0	1,116	1,116
Walkill R. (NJ/NY)	0	4,892	4,892
Edwin M. Forsythe (NJ)	6,681	46,319	39,638
Bosque del Apache (NM)	30,277	57,191	26,914
Eliabeth Morton (NY)	0	187	187
Mattamuskeet (NC)	0	50,180	50,180
Sullys Hill (ND)	0	1,675	1,675
Little River (OK)	0	13,600	13,600
Tennessee (TN)	0	51,359	51,359
Aransas (TX)	0	114,412	114,412
Laguna Atascosa (TX)	0	86,818	86,818
Back Bay (VA)	0	8,981	8,981
Chincoteague (VA)	0	13,615	13,615
Columbia (WA)	0	29,596	29,596
Nisqually (WA)	0	3,932	3,932
Horicon (WI)	0	21,405	21,405
National Elk (WY)	0	24,778	24,778
Total	9,773,336	26,414,570	16,641,234

Source: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, *Annual Report of Lands Under Control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as of September 30, 2004*. They comprise all land managed by the FWS, whether the agency has sole, primary, or secondary jurisdiction, and include acres under agreements, easements, and leases.